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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of:

Norihiko FUCHIGAMI et al.

Serial No. 10/721,161

Filed: November 26, 2003

For: AUDIO SIGNAL
PROCESSING APPARATUS

Art Unit: 2655

Examiner: Abebe, Daniel Demelash

Atty Docket: 0102/0226

RESPONSE

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

This is in response to the Office Action dated January 12, 2006 in which the pending claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. 101 as claiming the same invention as claims 13-16 of co-pending application 10/721160.

Before responding substantively to the Office Action, the examiner's attention is respectfully directed to the attached Form PTO-1449, submitted with an IDS filed on the same date (November 26, 2003) as the filing date of the instant application, which was returned with the Office Action. Please note that the foreign document JP11-109996 has not been initialed. The examiner is therefore respectfully requested to consider and initial JP11-109996 and return the fully initialed Form PTO-1449 to the undersigned with the next communication.

In view of the amendment to claims 13 and 15 of co-pending application 10/721160, it is believed that claims 13-16 of the present application are clearly distinguishable from the claims of the '160 co-pending application. Therefore, the provisional double patenting